cyclone victims, the question of giving further concessions in customs and excise duties does not arise.

Newsitem Regarding Tax Evasion by Railway Cable Supplier

2457. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tax evasion by Railway cable supplier" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 28th January, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to blacklist those companies from awarding Government contracts involved in evasion of taxes; and

(d) if so, the facts and policy of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A case has been booked by the Commissionerate, Central Excise, Delhi against M/S Gautam Cables Industries, for allegedly supplying cables to the Railways on the strength of fake invoice, thereby collecting the excise duty from the Railways, but misappropriating the same. In doing so, they have suppressed the figures of production and clearances from the Central Excise Department. One person has been arrested in this case.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting of Bank Officers Union with MOF regarding appointment of officer nominee directors

2458. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Bank Officers Unions was held with the Ministry of Finance, Banking Department, in November, 1996, regarding the appointment of officers nominee director on the Board of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in 5-6 Banks the posts of officer employee director are vacant and in 10-11 Banks the tenures of officer nominee director have expired, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in the above meeting the Ministry of Finance assured the representatives of officers' unions to expedite the process for appointing the directors; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Nomination of officer employee directors on the boards of nationalised banks are made in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes and Government's guidelines in this regard. The guidelines were revised in July, 1995. Representations were received from some national level bank officers' organisations regarding the revision of the guidelines. A meeting was held in the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) in November, 1996 with the representatives of some national level bank officers' associations to discuss the matter. In the light of the representations and the discussions, re-examination of the guidelines became necessary.